

House Health Committee

Vaccine Distribution Update

Secretary Mandy Cohen

Department of Health and Human Services

February 4, 2021

Vaccinations to Date

Supply is very limited and does not meet the demand.

- 103% of first doses administered as of 02/2
- 92% of first doses administered as of 2/4 (new shipment of first doses arrived on 2/3).
- 964,781 total first doses administered
- 1,190,069 total doses (1st and 2nd) administered as of 02/4
 - 1,077,151 in the community
 - 112,918 in long-term care facilities through the federal partnership with CVS and Walgreens
- NC gets ~150,000 first doses a week (with new 20% increase from feds).

Current Prioritization Plan

- CDC guidance on 1/12 recommended vaccinating those 65+
- Guidance aligns with NC data: those 65+ make up 15% of cases but 83% of deaths



Allocation Process – Balancing Equity & Speed

Goal: vaccinate as many people as quickly and equitably as possible with very limited supply of vaccines.

- **Baseline allocation** (~120k doses) guaranteed for 3 weeks
 - 90k based on county population
 - 30k for counties with higher numbers of low-income adults 65 and older and historically marginalized populations 65 and older.
- **Set-Aside Allocations** (~30k doses): Community Vaccination Events; New providers; and balance doses across counties
 - Community Vaccination Events chosen based on: Equity, Readiness and Speed, Partnership
- **Expectations for Vaccinating Providers:**
 - Must use and log all first doses before the next week's shipment arrives
 - Percentage of vaccine administered to historically marginalized and minority populations should meet or exceed the population estimates of these communities in their county and region

Federal Vaccine Programs

1. Long-Term Care Facility Program

- Vaccine doses come from state allocation; to CVS & Walgreens

2. Retail Pharmacies Partnership:

- Vaccine doses are allocated from the federal supply not the state allocation

Phase 1 – Walgreens is the initial partner due to number and geographic distribution of stores

- Will be at most (~300) stores, but not all – vaccine supply will be very limited at each store.
- Starts as early as next week (2/12)
- Will follow the state's prioritization plan

Phase 2 – as vaccine supply increases, CDC will increase the number of participating pharmacies

- Once a pharmacy receives federal allocations, they cannot get state allocations

➤ Both programs required to report data to the state and CDC

COVID Vaccine Management System Update


- Logged 1.1 million + doses to date
- Updates to the system have been made most weekends since the system went live to make improvements based on user feed back
 - Data entry improvements using RPAs
 - Ability for vaccine sites to fix data entry errors and run their own reports
- **Upcoming upgrades:**
 - Integration with Electronic Health Records system to enable streamlined reporting (beginning Feb 15th)
 - Organizational Portal: employers/organizations will be able to upload employee registration information to streamline sign-ups process

Supporting Vaccine Providers

- The state is aiding these local efforts by offering support:
 - Data entry
 - Event planning
 - Coordination across community players
 - Pairing volunteer workforce such as vaccinators and registration assistance
 - Help answering the phones/scheduling appointments
 - Materials to help inform people about the vaccines

Consumer Info: Call Center; Find My Vaccine Group, Location

- New online tool to help people self-identify with their prioritization group (reduces pressure on local providers) FindMyGroup.nc.gov

Find My Vaccine Group	Find My Vaccine Group	Find My Vaccine Group
<div><div>YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.</div></div> <p>Tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.</p> <p>A free COVID-19 vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. We want to make sure people are vaccinated as quickly and fairly as possible, starting with people who are more likely to get COVID-19 and those more likely to get dangerously sick from it.</p> <p>Use this tool to find your vaccine group.</p> <p>This survey will not collect any private health information. There is an option at the end to enter contact information if you would like to be notified when you are eligible for vaccination.</p>	<p>Do you currently live, work or volunteer full or part-time in any of the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Health Care Settings (including hospitals, outpatient clinics, COVID-19 testing or vaccination sites, home health care, public health clinical services, emergency medical services, mortuaries, and pharmacies)<input type="radio"/> Long-Term Care Facilities (including adult care homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, group homes, continuing care retirement communities, in-patient hospice facilities)<input checked="" type="radio"/> None of the above <div><div>Back</div><div>Next</div></div>	<p>Based on your responses, you are in Group 4. NC is currently vaccinating people in Groups 1 and 2. You are not yet eligible to get a vaccine based on North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.</p> <p>Remember: you will have a spot to take your shot. Vaccines will be available to all who want it, but supplies are currently limited. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, we are first protecting health care workers, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>Visit YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov for more information about vaccines. If you'd like to be notified when you are eligible to receive a vaccine, please provide your email address and/or phone number. While the state may open a new group for vaccination, the timing of when individual vaccine providers may be able to provide the vaccine to a new group will vary.</p>

- Individuals can also phone the COVID-19 Call Center at **888-675-4567** toll-free to find their group, local vaccine providers, and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Our **Vaccine Finder** tool allows you to search for vaccination sites based on county or name. Covid19.ncdhhs.gov/FindYourSpot

Earning Trust

- **Invested in communications research** with focus on African American/Black, LatinX/Hispanic, American Indian and rural communities
- **Produced content featuring leaders from historically marginalized populations**
 - Recording over 30 on-camera interviews with people of color in multiple languages and produced videos featuring leaders from historically marginalized populations
 - [Vaccine PSA's Available Here](#)
 - Partnering with Rev. Barbar; HBCUs, including North Carolina A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr., who will record getting his vaccine and host a townhall
- **Trained community health workers (CHWs)** to educate residents in HMP communities on the vaccine; addressing confidence and connecting to appointments
- **Trained trusted messengers** to present on the COVID-19 vaccines
 - Trained close to 300 internal and external leaders to host vaccine conversations, roundtables, presentations, including community health workers, AMEXCAN, members of our Historically Marginalized Populations workgroup

Meeting People Where They Are

- **Provided free transportation for people to receive a COVID-19 vaccine**
 - \$2.5M is being distributed to local transit agencies to help pay for rides for people who need transportation assistance.
 - Duke providing transportation to vaccination visits through their isolation support services in Durham, Granville, Vance, Nash, Warren, Wake and Franklin counties.
- **Expectations of vaccine providers to support equity**
 - Expectation for vaccine providers that their administration should meet or exceed race/ethnicity population estimates
 - Any vaccine events supported by the state must focus on reaching underserved communities
- **Onboarding providers who serve historically marginalized populations**
 - 106 FQHCs onboarded into COVID Vaccine Management System
- **Scheduling vaccine sites at HBCUs; African American Churches; high schools; other accessible locations**
 - NCDHHS is working with NC Emergency Management and the UNC System office to set up large vaccination sites at campuses, beginning first with HBCU/Historically Minority Serving Institutions campuses.

COVID-19 Cases

- County Alert System Update Available Here
 - 61 counties are **RED**
 - 33 counties are **ORANGE**
 - 6 counties are **YELLOW**
- COVID-19 variant called B.1.1.7 detected in NC
 - “United Kingdom” variant
 - Early data suggest that this variant may be more contagious.
- The 3Ws are still critical: wear a mask all the time when you with people you don’t live with, wait 6 feet apart, wash your hand often.
- Testing remains critical for our COVID response and will well into 2022. New tests are quickly coming to market and the Department must pivot rapidly to use the latest capabilities for surveillance, rapid identification of disease, and limiting spread in many different settings.